



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

October 6, 2005

## **ICE AGENTS SEIZE MORE THAN 3900 LBS. OF COCAINE**

*Antiguan-flagged vessel arrived at the Port of San Juan with the contraband*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that 3,904 pounds of cocaine were seized yesterday after being discovered on board the Antiguan-flagged vessel TMM Turango shortly after the vessel's arrival at the Port of San Juan. The seizure was part of Operation Caribbean Corridor, an investigative/law enforcement initiative by ICE, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in the Caribbean Basin.

The TMM Durango docked at the Port of San Juan at approximately 9:00 a.m. on Aug 5, 2005. The vessel's last port of call prior to arriving at San Juan was Venezuela.

During a required inspection of the vessel, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors discovered a liquid gas cylinder with two hidden compartments. CBP inspectors used the vehicle and cargo inspection system (VACIS) to detect that the 3,904 pounds of cocaine had been concealed within the two compartments.

"We have the technology, resources and intelligence to detect any type of contraband coming to the United States from abroad," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in San Juan. "ICE, along with its Department of Homeland Security (DHS) partners and other federal, state and local agencies, will continue to work together to ensure that these massive quantities of drugs don't reach the streets of Puerto Rico."

No arrests were made during this seizure; however, the investigation into the case continues.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*